

## "Strategies"

Find out more about actions and ideas to clean up our water by obtaining a copy of "Strategies for Restoring our Waters." This new booklet explains how water pollution problems were created and how the Metro Toronto and Region RAP is working to restore and protect our water. Call the RAP hotline at 323-4678 for a free copy of "Strategies."

Your support is vital!  
Start cleaning up our rivers  
and waterfront now!

This is the time for you to get involved and help make decisions. Which cleanup actions are best? Who is going to pay? You have a stake in the Remedial Action Plan.

Voice Your Support!

Public consultation is an important part of the solution. Check your community newspaper during the fall of 1991 for a Metro Toronto and Region RAP Public Consultation Meeting near you.

**Remedial Action Plan  
Plan d'Assainissement**

Canada ☙ Ontario



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## Making Decisions! Taking Action!

Action is already underway to clean up areas of our rivers and waterfront. Efforts in progress include:

- Upgrading sewers and sewage treatment plants to increase their effectiveness.
- Tracing and disconnecting illegal sewage discharges into creeks, rivers and the waterfront.
- Planting trees along the banks of rivers and creeks to stop erosion.
- Setting up household hazardous waste depots and the "toxics taxi" to provide people with an alternative to pouring toxic chemicals down the drain.

These are steps in the right direction. But the final cleanup plan may take 20 years—and millions of dollars—to meet the goal of clean water.



## Get Involved!

- Many citizen's groups are making a positive impact on our local environment by planting trees, building trails, cleaning river banks and pulling litter out of rivers. For information on organizations in your area, contact the Ontario Environmental Network: (519) 837-2565.
- Participate in the Metro Toronto and Region RAP's Public Advisory Committee. Concerned members of the public help shape the goals and priorities of the RAP. You can attend their monthly meetings. Call 323-4678 for details.
- Contact your local municipality for ideas on handling household hazardous wastes.
- Contact the office of the Metro Toronto and Region RAP for copies of our brochures and reports. Ask for a copy of "Strategies for Restoring our Waters." The RAP Coordinator welcomes your comments. Members of the RAP and the Public Advisory Committee would be pleased to come and speak to your organization.
- Contact Environment Canada (973-9736) and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (424-3000) for more information on water quality issues.

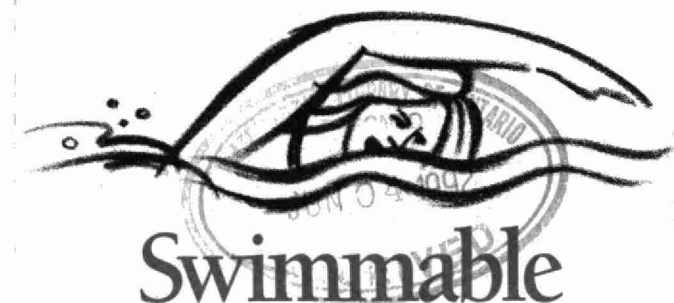
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## Making Our Water...



The Metro Toronto and Region Remedial Action  
Plan (RAP) for Restoring and Protecting Water Quality



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# A Plan For Today And Tomorrow

## The Metro Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

The waterfront and rivers of Canada's most populated region are polluted. The situation is threatening our ability to enjoy the benefits of our water resources. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to restore and protect our water is being developed—and your support is vital!

### Our Goals

- Provide a healthy, balanced and sustainable ecosystem for the people and wildlife in the region.
- Ensure the region's waters are drinkable, fishable and swimmable—for everyone to enjoy.

Concerned members of the public, four levels of government, businesses, industry and environmental groups are working together to ensure the Remedial Action Plan to clean up our water is comprehensive, coordinated and achievable.

\* The health of our ecosystem depends on the way we use water throughout the watershed.

## The Action Plan Affects Your Area

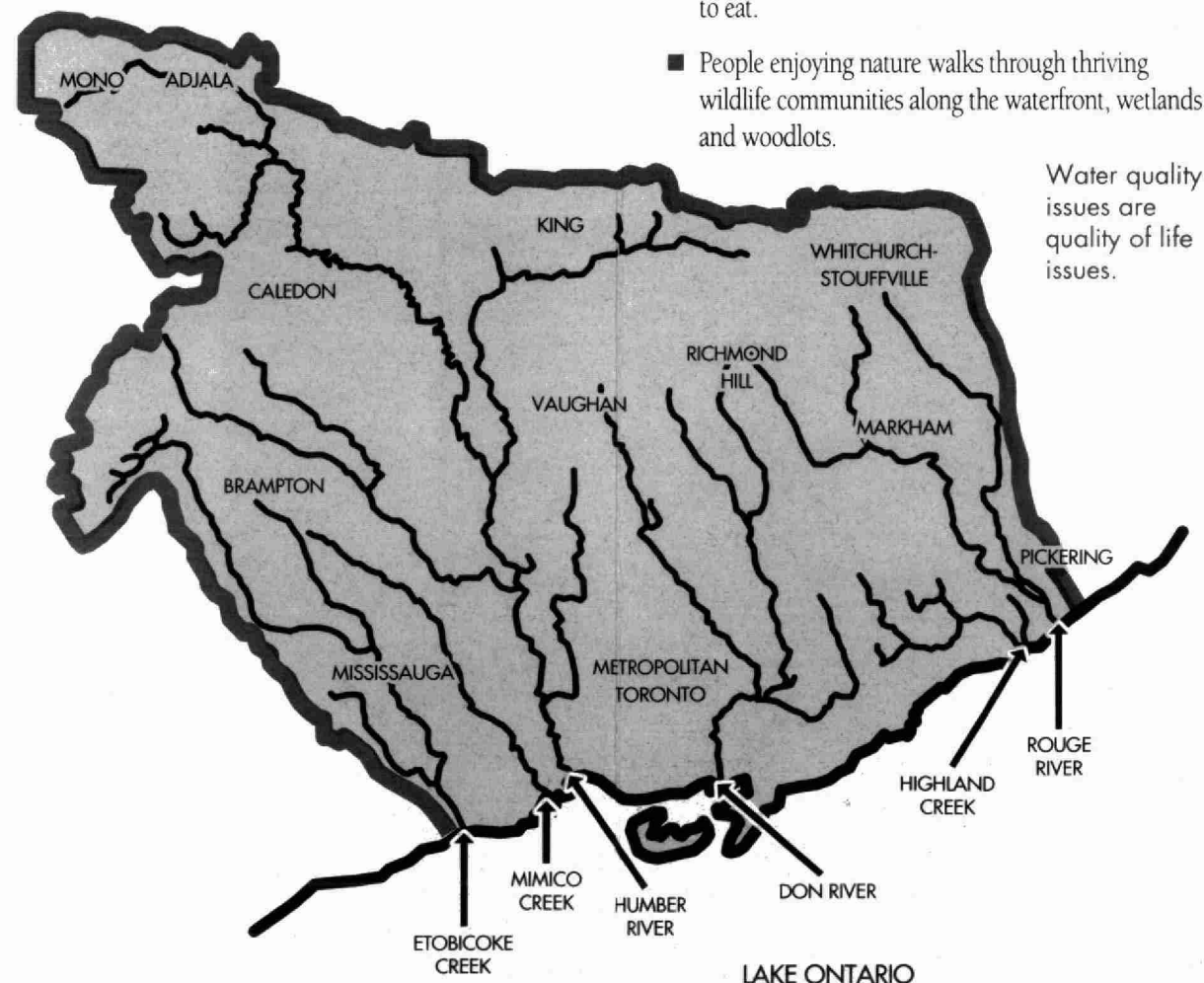
The Metro Toronto and Region RAP covers 2000 square kilometres and is home to two and a half million people. This includes areas drained by Etobicoke, Mimico and Highland Creeks and the Humber, Don and Rouge Rivers. Water from each of these creeks and rivers flows into Lake Ontario.

If you live in this area, the RAP concerns you.

## Tomorrow's Water Depends On Our Actions Today

Everyone involved in the Metro Toronto and Region RAP shares a vision for the future:

- People drinking cool, clear water from the tap with confidence that it is safe.
- People swimming and windsurfing without fear of disease.
- People fishing—and taking the day's catch home to eat.
- People enjoying nature walks through thriving wildlife communities along the waterfront, wetlands and woodlots.



## Understanding The Problems

Many water pollution problems have been caused by a failure to understand how land development, homes and businesses affect our rivers and waterfront.

Understanding is the first step to cleaning up and protecting our water.

### Did You Know?

- Water that runs off roads, parking lots, farms and lawns carries pollution directly into our rivers and waterfront—often causing beach closures.
- Metro's inner harbour was once home to more than 50 species of fish, including muskellunge, walleye and lake trout. Water pollution and habitat destruction have killed off a great number of these fish.
- People who pour solvents, motor oil and other toxics down the drain are flushing them right into Lake Ontario. The sewage treatment plants that process our waste water are not designed to deal with these toxic chemicals. The toxic chemicals enter the food chain—contaminating fish and other organisms.
- A heavy rainfall can put more water into the system than our sewage treatment plants can handle. The untreated sewage ends up in Lake Ontario, leading to beach closures.

You can find out more about the causes of water pollution by reading "Strategies for Restoring our Waters"